



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 24-2131, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR AN ARPA VITAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTED BY THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States’ recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385B of ARPA funding to Cook County to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2021, the Cook County American Rescue Plan Act Framework (the “ARPA Framework”) was presented to the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate the approach outlined in the ARPA Framework, the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized the Chief Financial Officer and the Budget Director to expend a limited amount of ARPA funding via Resolution 21-3657 for the purpose of continuing and expanding existing County programs and initiatives, including any created under CRF, as well as for the purpose of building operational support capacity within County departments and offices to assist with managing the ARPA funded initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-0637 authorized the Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Chief Procurement Officer and applicable using agencies to issue grants, contracts and agreements for up to \$100M in ARPA funding for Vital Community programs approved via Resolution 22-0637; and

WHEREAS, to further the Policy Roadmap Goal to pursue inclusive economic and community growth by supporting residents, growing businesses, attracting investment and nurturing talent, the Bureau of Economic Development (BED) has developed a menu of Vital Community programs and initiatives, including the Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt Program, which have undergone review and approval through the Project Management Office process to utilize ARPA funding for such programs and initiatives pursuant to the issuance of grants, contracts and agreements; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-0637 provided that any grants issued in regard to ARPA programs in an amount over \$1M shall require the approval of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-2807 authorized the Bureau of Economic Development to enter into a Subrecipient Agreement with the Chicago Bar Foundation in an aggregate amount of up to \$13,929,400 to implement the Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt Program; and

WHEREAS, ARPA funding is available within the Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt Program, and the Bureau of Economic Development desires to provide additional funding to the Chicago Bar Foundation to support their implementation of the Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the issuance of the following agreement amendment by the BED, subject to satisfactory performance of the program by the subrecipient and subject to annual appropriation by the Board:

1. Amend the Subrecipient Agreement with the **Chicago Bar Foundation** to increase the total funding by **\$4,815,527** from the original approved amount of **\$13,929,400** to a revised aggregate amount of up to **\$18,744,927** to continue their implementation of the **Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt Program**, a program to help Cook County residents resolve eviction, foreclosure, consumer debt, and tax deed issues prior to court and during the court process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Bureau Chief of BED or its designee to modify the agreements and funding allocations to all BED selected organizations based upon need and utilization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the BED ARPA Programs shall be subject to availability of funds from the United States Government and appropriation of funding by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.